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ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

No apology seems necessary for the introduction of the present subject, although its incidents have been often told, into the pages of the *Quarterly*. When so painful a calamity, as the death of the Chief Magistrate of the Union, has fallen upon the land, and under circumstances so sad, it is proper that the press of the country, without exception, should give expression to its appreciation of intellectual and moral worth, and its participation in the deep and spontaneous outburst of sorrow, occasioned by an event which has clothed the nation in mourning and filled the civilized world with grief. The Rebellion, unparalled in atrocity, culminated in the death of the honored and revered President of the United States, the friend of his country and the benefactor of his race, stricken down while in the conscientious discharge of his public duties, in the highest civil trust imposed upon him by the people, with armor on, in the full maturity of his powers. Neither the office with which he was invested, nor the estimable character which he possessed, could shield him from the assaults of death, the relentless, murderous attack of the assassin. It is difficult to realize, that one so pure, so kind, so noble and so useful has terminated his career, yet his work was evidently accomplished, his mission on earth, fulfilled. But never in the history of the world, has an act been perpetrated which so moved the people, sent such a pang into the nation's heart. No death ever produced a sensation so profound, and so general. As the dreadful tidings flashed over the telegraphic wires, and vibrated through the length and breadth of the land, never was the country more convulsed, the national emotion more intense.

Lincoliana



It brought sorrow to the hearts of more than twenty millions of freemen. It was a day of the deepest gloom. Business is suspended, trade pauses, public buildings and private dwellings are closed, the streets darkened; flags are flying at half-mast, and funeral emblems are everywhere displayed. Anguish and terror are depicted in every countenance, strong men clasp one another's hands in silence, or bury their heads and weep. Men of all political parties and shades of opinions, representatives of all religious creeds, Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, all classes, the lowliest as well as the highest, every cottage, hamlet and city mourn with an unaffected and sacred grief. The calm, subdued, solemn feeling, the sadness in the manner and voice, never before witnessed, proclaim that a prince and a great man has fallen in Israel. No tribute could be more pathetic, or more suggestive of his character, of the love which he inspired, and the influence he exerted.

"Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit."

It is right and proper to manifest our grief under the severe and afflictive bereavement, to gather around the tomb and to unite in the sad obsequies, to honor the memory and cherish the virtues of him who was so devoted to the cause of freedom and the progress of mankind, whose name and principles will endure as long as the republic continues and the world endures.

Abraham Lincoln was born, February 12th, 1809, fifty-six years ago, in Hardin County, Kentucky. His ancestors were of English extraction, from the State of Pennsylvania, and members of the Society of Friends. When only seven years of age, he removed with his parents to Indiana, then an almost uninhabited territory, where in his new home he devoted the next ten years of his life to manual labor on the farm, in helping to clear away the heavy timber and in cultivating the soil. His character was formed and developed by associations with the pioneers of a western wilderness, with those who encountered the difficulties, struggles and privations of settling a new country. The child of poverty and toil, the only school education which he ever received, was that which he enjoyed, at intervals, during this period, amounting in the aggregate, to less than a year. Deprived of the advantages of liberal culture, his leisure hours were devoted to the acquisition of knowledge and the improvement of his mental faculties. In his cabin-home, by the hearth-

stone he would sit until long after midnight, diligently studying those elementary works which exercised so much influence in determining his future greatness. He read few books, but these he thoroughly mastered. *Æsop's Fables*, *Weems' Life of Washington*, a *Life of Henry Clay*, and *Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress* were his favorite authors. No misfortune of birth, no difficulties in life, could repress his eager desires in the pursuit of knowledge. Industry, energy and perseverance, a firm reliance and a steadfast faith, supplied the defects of an imperfect education in early life, and compensated for all the disadvantages which environed his path, furnishing a practical illustration of the workings of our free institutions in opening the avenues of success from the most humble position in private life to the most exalted place of honor and trust. In 1830, he removed with his father to Illinois, where he assisted in the erection of a log cabin for the family, and in enclosing a rail fence around the grounds. In the following year he was employed as one of the hands in navigating a common flat-boat down the Mississippi river to New Orleans, and, on his return, occupied a position as clerk in a store and mill. But his labors in this capacity were abruptly terminated by the breaking out of the Black-Hawk war, in 1832, when he offered his services to repel the Indian invasion on the Western borders of the State, and for three months, was captain of a volunteer company. On the conclusion of the war, he was selected as a candidate for the State Legislature, and, although he was defeated, as he expected, the opposite party being greatly in the ascendency, his own immediate district gave him two hundred and seventy-seven votes out of two hundred and eighty-four that were cast, a very decided proof of the high estimation in which he was held by his neighbors. He is now appointed Post-master, and having leisure for reading, commences the study of law, to which he devotes himself with the greatest assiduity. About this time, also, he performed the duties of County Surveyor, and became generally and favorably known for his good practical sense and ability in argumentative debate. In 1834 he was chosen a member of the legislature by the highest vote given for any candidate in the State, to which position he was re-elected for three additional terms, embracing a period of eight years. In the meantime he had removed to the Capital of the State where he rapidly rose to eminence, and acquired a high reputation in his profession. He was distinguished for his clear,

vigorous and earnest presentation of the truth, and his great fairness and strict integrity as a lawyer. In 1846, at the age of 37 he was elected a representative to Congress, the duties of which he discharged with fidelity and usefulness, with a scrupulous devotion to the public interests, an inflexible adherence to principle, and a generous, intelligent sympathy with all measures designed to promote the common good, among which may be mentioned his efforts to secure, on a Constitutional basis, in the District of Columbia, the abolition of slavery, a system which he asserted was founded in injustice and bad policy. On the expiration of his Congressional term he retired to private life, and applied himself earnestly to the duties of his profession, till the repeal of the Missouri Compromise again called him into the political field. He was immediately acknowledged as a prominent leader, and in 1858 unanimously nominated, as the candidate of his party for the United States Senate, in opposition to Judge Douglas, with whom he thoroughly canvassed the State, the discussion being conducted on both sides with great ability and courtesy, and exciting the most profound interest throughout the Union. The result of this political contest was, that although Mr. Lincoln received a popular majority of four thousand votes, Mr. Douglas, by the joint ballot of the legislature, secured the appointment.

In 1860, at the Republican National Convention, assembled in Chicago, Mr. Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency, which nomination, the following November, was ratified by the people; on the 4th of March, 1861, he was inducted into office, and at once entered upon the discharge of his arduous and responsible duties. After four years of faithful service, he was re-elected President of the United States by an almost unparalleled electoral majority, a most signal and emphatic approval of his administration by the people. He had just been inaugurated for his second term, and the loyal country was rejoicing in the brilliant victories which were everywhere crowning our arms, and in the speedy and complete overthrow of the Rebellion, when he was smitten down, in a moment, by the foul hand of a cowardly assassin, in a public assembly, in the city of Washington, April 14th 1865, a martyr to the cause of human liberty and constitutional government. But

———"They never fall who die

In a great cause. Though years

Elapse and others share as dark a doom,
They but augment the deep and sweeping thoughts
Which overpower all others, and conduct
The world, at last, to freedom."

With this brief outline of Mr. Lincoln's life we are naturally led to inquire what estimate is to be placed upon his services as President of the United States. No man in the history of the nation ever had greater responsibilities imposed upon him, no public man ever sustained them with greater ability and success. He assumed the duties of his office amid unprecedented difficulties and trials, when the whole country was in confusion and peril; organized treason was defiant, States were in open rebellion, and the efforts of the Government seemed paralyzed. Fraud and corruption had entered the high places, political profligacy was impairing public morals, our national principles were assailed and the Constitution unscrupulously rejected. The foundations were shaking, authority was ignored, and the infection was spreading. A want of confidence in the stability of our free institutions began to prevail, and even good, patriotic men doubted whether we actually had a country or not. The Government vacillated, and the people were without hope. After four years of unremitting toil, the deepest anxiety and the most ardent devotion to the interests of the country, Mr. Lincoln lived to see the Rebellion crushed, its power of resistance completely broken, the conquered armies of the enemy forced to surrender, forts and arsenals recovered, strong holds repossessed, city after city retaken, the Rebel Capital fall, peace restored, the Republic saved, the supremacy of the National Government fully recognized, the honor of the country untarnished and triumphantly vindicated, the integrity and perpetuity of the Union on the principles of righteousness and the basis of universal human freedom firmly insured. "The measure, by which Abraham Lincoln," says the historian of the United States, "takes his place, not in American history only, but in universal history, is his Proclamation of January 1, 1863, emancipating all slaves within the insurgent States. It was, indeed, a military necessity, and it decided the result of the war." This great, auspicious act, on which the glory of his administration rests, and which will be prominent when all other events shall be forgotten, gave freedom to a race, and liberated four millions of enslaved immortal beings from the chains and degradation

of human bondage. This is his lasting memorial. Emancipation, as a military necessity, became the settled policy of the Government; this measure, the legality and force of which men no longer questioned, he lived to see triumph over all opposition and prejudice, and the gigantic system of wrong, the result of more than two centuries, forever demolished. A stupendous work, unsurpassed in the grandeur of its character and the magnitude of its issues, was assigned him, but how successfully he accomplished it. Summoned to a lofty destiny, how gloriously he fulfilled it. An unerring Providence seems to have selected him for the emergency, for the arduous service which was to be done in these troublous times, to guide the Government in this contest for freedom.

"Such men are rais'd to station and command,
When Providence means mercy to the land.
He speaks and they appear; to him they owe
Skill to direct and strength to strike the blow;
To manage with address, to seize with pow'r
The crisis of a dark, decisive hour."

"If ever man," says the *British Standard*, "was fitted for such an enterprise, it was he; he was wanting in no gift or grace, despite his peasant-like plainness, required for the proper discharge of his duties. Even his alleged defects were special qualifications for it. The enemy he was required to grapple with found him at all points prepared, and in every instance he was victor. He never took a false step of the slightest moment in his career. His prudence and moderation preserved him from falling when men of another mould and of a more shining exterior, might have been caught in the traps and snares of a subtle and vigilant adversary. Abraham Lincoln has found a renown that will last, unimpaired, through a hundred generations. This work was the greatest known to modern story, and it will form by far the most momentous chapter in the chronicles of the age."

But what were Mr. Lincoln's peculiar qualifications for the work, his prominent characteristics, which so admirably fitted him for the service, silenced the calumnies of his enemies, attracted to him all hearts and secured the respect and admiration of the world? He was certainly no ordinary man, and impartial history will give him a very high place among the great, the pure, and the good that have lived on the earth. He possessed a combination of excellencies which are rarely united in a single individual. His greatness was not

the result of chance. His physical training, his strong iron frame, the toils of his childhood, the hardships of his youth rendered him capable of great endurance and unremitting toil, taught him lessons of self-reliance and prepared him for the trying scenes of his subsequent life.

Mr. Lincoln was a man of superior intellectual endowments. He possessed greater strength of mind than many supposed, greater than even his friends conceded to him when he first assumed the reins of Government, abilities that were adequate to every occasion, that were admirably adapted to the work he accomplished. His judgment was unusually strong and well-balanced, his power of observation clear and accurate. His mind promptly received and discerned the truth. His memory was tenacious, retentive and exact. He was distinguished for his shrewd, practical wisdom, common sense, his sagacity, intuitive and almost infallible, his quick perceptions, his ready exuberant wit, for his patience in investigation, and great caution, which enabled him carefully to mature the results of his observations. He had a logical turn of mind, and in the examination of any subject, in the exercise of induction, he followed with great power every link in the chain of thought. The various points which he seemed to illustrate in his argument were presented to another with remarkable clearness and precision, so as to leave upon the mind of the hearer a perfect photograph of what existed in his own mind. He had the faculty of rendering any subject, however complex, intelligible to the common understanding. This power of mental discipline was acquired by the careful study of Geometry, and by a determination in his youth to perceive the truth in all its bearings and relations. He tells us that, when yet a boy, in listening to a conversation he was often at a loss to know what people meant; if he retired to rest he could not sleep, till he endeavored to understand precisely the points intended to be conveyed and, when understood, to frame language suitable to communicate them more clearly and more definitely to others. When he attempted to enforce what was perfectly established in his own mind, he often rose to a high degree of eloquence. He was a fluent and forcible writer. His utterances which contain so much truth and deep wisdom, always appropriate to the occasion, are distinguished for their great simplicity and are uniformly drawn from experience and the actual relations of life rather than from abstract speculations and theories which could be turn-

ed to no practical account. His official papers, his writings and his speeches are among the most remarkable productions in our national literature, direct, lucid, earnest and vigorous, evincing a comprehensive grasp of great principles and an extraordinary insight into the fitness of things. They will every where be read and long remembered.

Mr. Lincoln, so remarkable in the powers of his mind, illustrious by his services and exalted by his public position, in the sterling qualities of his heart made a deep impression upon all with whom he was brought in contact. They inspired regard, trust, admiration and love. No one surpassed him in kindness of disposition, in childlike tenderness, in gentleness and moderation of spirit, in his self-sacrifice, his thoughtful consideration for the rights and happiness of others. His mild eye, pleasant countenance and happy smile beaming over his care-furrowed brow indicated a heart full of love, of friendly emotions and genial impulses, of pity and paternal yearnings. He could not have cherished a vindictive feeling, or meditated a cruel purpose. He was free from all malice, virulence, ill-will, or revenge. He exercised no spirit of hate towards his most bitter enemy. During his political career he never wrote or uttered a reproachful sentence. Assailed ever so unkindly, he never replied with words of harshness or reproach, but suffered patiently and without complaint. So much was he under the influence of this lovely spirit,

"That neither evil tongues,
Rash judgments, nor the sneers of selfish men"

could break his peace of mind or disturb his cheerful faith. No man with so much power ever exercised it so mercifully, or with so much charity. Political enemies who visited him were received as courteously and treated with as much justice as his most intimate friends. It took little to warm his heart up into a glow of kindly feeling even towards those who, he felt, had injured him. When the contest of last fall resulted in his triumphant re-election, his first expressions were that he could not and would not exult over his countrymen who had differed from him in political sentiment. "If I know my own heart," says this great, humble man, "it gives me no pleasure to triumph over anybody; it adds nothing to my enjoyment that any other man is disappointed by the result." In what kind, pathetic and importunate language does he, in his first Inaugural Address, appeal to those

who had lifted their parricidal hands against the life of the nation. "You can have no conflict," says he, "without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break, our bond of affection. The mystic cord of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot-grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone all over the broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." So in his last Inaugural we find no vindictive expressions against the men who had filled the land with blood, and were still persistent in their efforts to destroy the Union. His last official words, so kind and yet so earnest and solemn, seem almost like inspired language, addressed to the whole country from another world. "Both read the same Bible," he says, "and pray to the same God; and each invokes his aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both should not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has his own purposes. Woe unto the world because of offences, for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh. If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of these offences, which in the Providence of God must needs come, but which having continued through his appointed time, he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills, that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind

up the nation's wound, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Mr. Lincoln was a man of very humane feelings, of warm and earnest affections. His heart seemed a great fountain of love. No one could, with greater propriety, have adopted the sentiment of Terence:

Homo sum: humani nihil a me alienum puto.

He possessed strong sensibilities, and knew how to rejoice with them that rejoice, and to weep with them that weep. This was the ruling passion of his life. He was the steady and uniform friend of humanity, his sympathies were with his fellow-men, the wide world over, and his hand was ever extended to furnish relief. He was interested in every effort designed to advance the welfare of society, to ameliorate the condition of the race. An interesting exemplification of this spirit, so characteristic of the man, is afforded in a little incident connected with a visit to the city of New York, in 1860. Sabbath morning he started in search of the Sunday School in the Five-Points House of Industry. "I noticed," says the superintendent, "a tall and remarkable-looking man enter the room and take a seat among us. He listened with fixed attention to our exercises, and his countenance manifested such genuine interest that I approached him, and suggested that he might be willing to say something to the children. He accepted the invitation with evident pleasure, and coming forward began a simple address which at once fascinated every little hearer, and hushed the room into silence. His language was strikingly beautiful, and his tones musical with intensest feeling. The little faces around him would droop into sad conviction, as he uttered sentences of warning, and would brighten into sunshine as he spoke cheerful words of promise. Once or twice he attempted to close his remarks, but the imperative shout of 'Go on!' 'Oh, do go on!' would compel him to resume. As I looked upon the gaunt and sinewy frame of the stranger, and marked his powerful head and determined features, now touched into softness by the impressions of the moment, I felt an irrepressible curiosity to learn something more about him, and when he was quietly leaving the room, I begged to know his name. He courteously replied, 'It is Abram Lincoln, from Illinois.'" His condescension to all classes and conditions of persons, official and private, high and low, young and old, rich and poor, white

and black, was wonderful. No one was ever denied access to him. He listened kindly and patiently to the wounded soldier, the destitute widow and helpless orphan, to the young man, just entering upon the conflicts of life, to all who sought his presence for assistance and counsel. He was ever willing to hear and consider the cause of the poor, the humble, the suffering and the oppressed. His janitor, it is said, had from him a standing order, that, no matter how great a crowd thronged his door, if Senators or Representatives were compelled to wait, or be turned away without an audience, he must, before the day closed, admit every messenger who came with a petition for the rescuing of life from death. "Some of our Generals," he once remarked, "complain that I impair discipline and subordination in the army by my pardons and respites, but it makes me happy, if after a hard day's work I can find some good excuse for saving a man's life. I think how joyous the signing of my name will make him and his family and his friends." Not one of our brave soldiers fell in his country's service for whom President Lincoln would not have cheerfully died. His magnanimity was a very striking trait in his character. This was constantly seen in his generous, chivalrous, noble treatment, of his enemies. He did not want to triumph over a fallen foe. The liberal terms which he authorized General Grant to proffer to the Rebel army of Virginia, are without a precedent in the history of the world. And the very day on which he died, when he ascertained that two prominent leaders of the conspiracy, in disguise, were trying to flee from the country, and it was proposed to arrest them, he directed the officers to let them escape. His kind, gentle, forgiving disposition prompted him to love even the rebellious, who were plotting for his life. How beautifully he illustrated in his official conduct the sentiments, inculcated by our immortal Washington in his Valedictory Address: "It will be worthy of a free, enlightened and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people, always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that, in course of time and things, the fruits of such a plan would widely repay any temporary advantages, which might be lost by a steady adherence to it?"

Yet with all his mildness and kindness of heart, his singular charity, he was a man of great firmness. He never faltered in what he believed to be the path of duty; he could never be diverted from a course which he honestly sup-

posed right; he was most tenacious in his adherence to principle and never hesitated to stand up in its defence. He was disposed to do right at all times and under all circumstances, regardless of consequences; unawed by the denunciations of his enemies, undismayed by the clamors of his friends, he followed the suggestions of conscience, the dictates of an honest heart. On his journey to Washington, in 1861, in a speech, delivered at the raising of a Flag in Philadelphia he said, "It was something in the Declaration of Independence giving liberty not only to the people of this country, but hope to the world, for all coming time. It was that which gave promise that, in due time, the weights should be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. Now, my friends, can the country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world, if I can help to save it. But if the country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say, that I would rather be assassinated upon the spot than to surrender it. I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and, if it be the pleasure of Almighty God, to die by." Again in his message to Congress, in 1864, referring to a declaration previously made, he says: "I retract nothing, heretofore said, as to slavery. I repeat the declaration made a year ago, and while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retract, or modify the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that Proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress. If the people should by whatever mode or means make it my executive duty to enslave such persons, another, and not I, must be their instrument to perform it." After having attached his name to the immortal Proclamation of January 1, 1863, he remarked to some personal friends: "The signature looks a little tremulous, but my resolution was firm. I told them in September, if they did not return to their allegiance, I would strike at the pillar of their strength. And now the promise shall be kept, and not one word of it, will I ever recall." In the famous contest with his great political rival, in 1858, when he enunciated those startling words of prophecy, which have since become history, he fearlessly presented his honest convictions. He says: "A house divided against itself cannot stand, I believe this Government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free. I do

not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the farther spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new, North as well as South.” Although these sentiments were at the time unpopular, yet his calm reply invariably was: “Such is my clear convictions and I cannot change it.” Although he intimated no desire to see the result, which he predicted, accomplished and claimed no jurisdiction over the States in which the institution of slavery existed and, when elected to the Presidency, executed the Fugitive Slave Law because his oath of office, as the Executive, in his judgment required it, yet he never wavered in the discharge of duty. When urged at the beginning of his administration to strike at slavery under the war power, he replied: “My paramount object is to save the Union, and I would save it in the shortest way. If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves, I would do it. If I could save it, by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that. But I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men every where ought to be free.” And only when in his honest opinion, the time came, and the alternative of Slavery or the Union was presented, did he resolve to strike at the root of the evil. He never evaded personal responsibility. He always maintained his own individuality. He listened with deference to the opinions of others, but he was independent and fearless. *Nullius in verba magistri*. He was no mere partisan. Truth and justice and the good of his country were paramount objects in his estimation, never to be surrendered. “If I do my duty,” he says to the people, “and do right, you will sustain me: will you not?” Although he was as humble and unpretending as a child and ever ready to retract a measure, when convinced that he was wrong, yet he was as determined and fixed in his purpose, as

“The rock in the ocean, tranquil amid raging billows,”

if he felt sure that his opinions were deliberately and intelligently formed, that the course of action, marked out for himself, was right.

He was distinguished for his frankness, and his loyalty to truth, his sacred and inviolable regard for justice. His character was transparent, his heart, sincere and always open to the light. He deceived no man. There was no unworthy concealment of his opinions, no approach to double dealing, no capacity for intrigue, no serpentine policy or subterranean process, which he could pursue for reaching his ends. He never sought to influence men's passions, and to carry by sinister means any selfish designs. He hated from his inmost soul hypocrisy and falsehood. His heart was a stranger to every sordid feeling. Said one, who was on the most intimate terms with him, and who, for four years, occupied the same room: "A purer man than Mr. Lincoln I never knew. He could not have perpetrated a mean act. His own consciousness of guilt was sufficient to deter him from the commission of any deed, unworthy his manhood." The idea which seemed deeply impressed upon his mind was "*Nil conscire sibi, nulla pallescere culpa*." He was a man of stern principle, of unswerving integrity, of great honesty of purpose, an honesty which defied all attempts to corrupt or overthrow it, which rendered him superior to the fear of reproach, opposition or contempt, and maintained its empire in every transaction of life. He possessed a most engaging simplicity, removed from every thing like ostentation, which no one could fail to notice, and which won the esteem and hearts of all men. He was a man of unblemished character, unsullied by a single stain. He may have had his failings, but they were so few and so unimportant, that they are overshadowed by his great and noble attributes. In the midst of political excitement when every act is closely scrutinized and every defect greatly magnified, he challenged the respect and admiration of his opponents who admitted the purity of his life, the kindness of his heart, the sincerity of his intentions and the devotion of his whole nature to the conscientious convictions of patriotic duty, however much they may have differed in opinion from him as to the wisdom of many of his views of national policy. He was unfaltering in his love for his country, in his attachment to the principles of civil liberty. It was pure and lofty, superior to all personal considerations, removed from all unhallowed ambition. Whether in honor, or reproach, in triumph or defeat, his great heart never throbbed with one pulsation save for her welfare. During his official career he showed a devotion to duty, to the Union and the Constitution, which no hostility could abate, no par-

tisan aspersions shake. Alexander never more intensely desired to see the world at his feet, than he desired to see his native land, great and good as well as free. The nation's trials and perils filled him with the deepest anxiety, the most tender solicitude. "You are wearing yourself out with hard work," said one who observed his haggard, care-worn expression; "I cannot work less," he said in reply, "but it is not *that*, work never troubles me. Things look badly I cannot avoid anxiety."

His influence over the people was remarkable. He exercised a talismanic power over them, as no man had, since the days of Washington. They had faith in his integrity and honor and uprightness. He attracted them to him by his kindred sympathies and affections; he could always rely for support upon the people. He had grown up among them, had shared their labors, experienced their trials, encountered their difficulties, was identified with their interests. His language was the language of the people. He was a type of the American people, a representative of the strength and peculiarities of our American institutions. Whenever he spoke, the people heard him gladly, and so unbounded was their confidence in his wisdom, purity, prudence and patriotism, that they felt the administration of the Government was safe in his hands. Even when the winds were high and the waves dashing over the deck, and the rocks were under the lee, they could rest secure, and believe

Nil desperandum, Teucro duce et auspice Teucro.

But the crowning excellence of Mr. Lincoln's character was his deep religious feeling. Taught by a pious mother to read and revere the word of God, he had continued the practice through life. He loved it for its great truths and its profound teachings. The early lessons he learned from the lips of maternal love he never forgot. He had a strong and abiding confidence in an ever-wise and overruling Providence, a sacred regard for the precepts of Christianity, an unshaken trust in God and in the ultimate triumph of truth and righteousness in the world. These principles sustained and strengthened him in his trials, and inspired him with hope in the darkest hour of our country's history. He firmly believed in Christ, as the Saviour of sinners, and most cordially recognized the power of prayer and his personal dependence for wisdom and strength upon a higher than human power. When he left his quiet home at Springfield, in 1861, to as-

sume the office to which he had been called by the suffrages of his fellow citizens, he acknowledged his dependence on God and sought his help; in his parting words, so touching and impressive, addressed to his neighbors, he said: "A duty devolves upon me, which is perhaps greater than that which has devolved upon any other man, since the days of Washington. He never could have succeeded, except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he, at all times, relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine aid which sustained him; and in the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support; and I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance, without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain." In the progress of his journey he again utters similar language: "For the ability to perform my work I trust in that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land. Without that assistance I should surely fail. With it I cannot fail." His official papers and public addresses are remarkable for their religious tone, his simple trust in God, and humble reliance upon Divine aid, without any of the cold formality, or the cant of affectation which usually marks such documents, but accompanied with a warmth and earnestness which produce the impression that his heart had been touched by God's love, that he was under the influence of Christian principle, of renewing and sanctifying grace. He feared God and daily implored the blessing of heaven on the country he was striving so faithfully to serve. He says: "I shall be most happy, indeed, if I shall be a humble instrument, in the hands of the Almighty, and of this, his chosen people, for perpetuating the object of this great struggle." "Let us diligently," he adds, "apply the means, never doubting that a just God, in his own good time, will give us the rightful result." Again he declares: "My hope of success in this great and terrible struggle rests on that immutable foundation, the justice and goodness of God. And when events are very threatening and prospects very dark, I still hope, in some way, which man cannot see, all will be well in the end, because our cause is just, and God is on our side." He further remarks: "I know the Lord is always on the side of right. God is my witness, that it is my constant anxiety and prayer, that both myself and this nation should be on the Lord's side." In response to an address which had been made by an ecclesiastical body, he said: "Gentlemen, if God be with us, we shall maintain this Government, if not, we

shall fail," and this was uttered with the deepest solemnity and peculiarity of manner so as to produce the conviction that he felt that God was with the nation and would bring it through all its trials. His Proclamation of Emancipation he concludes with an invocation of a most impressive character: "And upon this, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God." To a friend who asked him on a certain occasion if he loved the Saviour his reply was: "When I was first inaugurated I did not love him; but when I stood upon the battle-field of Gettysburg, and looked upon the graves of our dead heroes, who had fallen in defence of their country, I gave my heart to Christ, and I can now say that I do love my Saviour." To a friend with whom he was conversing on the nature of a true religious experience, he said: "I think, I can say with sincerity, that I hope I am a Christian. I had lived," he continued, "until my boy Willie died, without fully realizing these things. That blow overwhelmed me. It showed me my weakness, as I had never felt it before. I think I can safely say, that I know something of the *change* of which you speak, and I will further add that it has been my intention for some time, at a suitable opportunity, to make a public religious profession." In a letter written last September, he thus speaks: "I am much indebted to the good Christian people of the country for their constant prayers and consolations. The purposes of the Almighty are perfect and must prevail, though we erring mortals may fail to perceive them in advance. We hoped for a happy termination of this terrible war long before this, but God knows best, and has ruled otherwise. We still acknowledge his wisdom and our own errors therein. Meanwhile, we must work earnestly in the best light he gives us, trusting that so working conduces still to the great ends he ordains. Surely he intends some great good to follow this mighty convulsion, which no mortal could make, and no mortal stay." We gratefully remember, too, that only a few weeks before his death, the last official interview the Christian Commission had with him, in the East Room of the Executive Mansion, was, with his most cordial approval, closed with prayer to God, in whose hands he then said he felt himself to be but an instrument to execute plans, whose full purport and results he did not understand.

Although President Lincoln was not a professor of reli-

gion, which we very much regret, yet we have reason to believe that he was a sincere Christian; that he sought and found that faith which unites the heart in living relations to the Saviour; and that now, in the land of reality, his robes washed in the blood of the Lamb, he rests in the bosom of his God. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

In this solemn and afflictive Providence we should devoutly recognize the hand of God, and improve its mournful lessons, its impressive teachings. However mysterious the dispensation which awakens human expectation and concentrates human attachment in some revered personage, and then throws over him the veil of death and hides him from us, to the Christian there is abundant consolation in the thought that the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, that his government is universal, his providence extends to the most minute events of life, that nothing transpires without his permission, that not even a sparrow falls to the ground without his notice. "The Lord's throne is in the heavens and his kingdom ruleth over all." It was the cruel hand of the assassin that smote our wise and noble President, and filled the land with mourning, yet the murderous purpose could have been executed only by a permissive Providence. God, if he had seen fit, could have averted the stroke, the hand that wielded the fatal weapon could have been paralyzed and rendered harmless. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." A voice cometh out of "the cloud that wraps the present hour," saying: "Be still, and know that I am God." "What I do, thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." We cannot always penetrate the gloom and understand the mystery, but

"God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain."

"Every dark cloud has its silver lining." God will bring light out of darkness, order out of confusion, good out of apparent evil, and this dark tragedy, like all other occurrences in human history, will result in the promotion of his glory and the extension of his kingdom. "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath thou shalt restrain." We must acknowledge in this inscrutable event the hand of Him who never errs, who worketh all things in heaven

and on earth, after his own perfect counsels, whose actions are controlled by infinite wisdom and boundless love, who doeth all things well. We most cordially acquiesce in his will, and in humble submission exclaim, "Even so Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight."

We, also, learn that although our Chief Magistrate is dead, the nation still lives. Mr. Lincoln's work was accomplished, or he would not have been removed. "The workman dies, but the work goes on." The same benignant Being, who raised up such a man in the crisis of our history, can raise up other leaders for us. The God of our fathers, who has been with us in the past, and conducted us in safety through the darkest periods, will, if we are faithful and seek his guidance, still be our protector and guide. Our free institutions have been vindicated, as they never were before. Republican liberty, based upon Christianity, cannot be destroyed, or falter in its course. The best, the most irresistible proof has been furnished of the strength and permanence of our Government. The inquiry, a year ago, was propounded whether an election for the Presidency could be conducted, whilst the nation was engaged in the prosecution of the war, but in the army and at home, and with Generals in the field who might have been considered the rivals of the President, and during a state of high political excitement, everything passed off as quietly as in a time of peace. With the result there is not a word of dissent, either among our citizens or soldiers. There is a universal acquiescence in the expressed will of the people. And within two or three hours of the President's removal from the scenes of his duties, another President is inaugurated, another leader under Constitutional forms occupies the Executive chair, and the machinery moves on as if nothing had happened. The Government changes hands without a jar, without the least interruption in public affairs; not a voice murmured, not a note in insurrection is heard.

"Sol occubuit, nox nulla secuta est."

The history of the world does not afford another such example. What patriot can contemplate these facts and yet despair of the Republic? Who can review the occurrences of the last two months and not have his confidence in the stability and perpetuity of our free institutions strengthened? There is no doubt we shall come forth from our trials, from the terrible ordeal through which we have passed, a purer,

stronger and a better people than we were before the war, prepared to occupy a still loftier position among the nations of the earth. A question has been settled, a moral and political problem wrought out, the solution of which affected the whole earth, in which all mankind were concerned, not only this republic, but the republics of the world. It was a contest for human freedom. The result will influence ages yet to come. The nations of the earth have learned, that a republic may endure under the most trying circumstances, that man is capable of self-government, of living under laws of his own creation. If we had failed, the experiment would, perhaps, have never been renewed, the hopes of the civilized world would have perished, and darkness have brooded, for ages, over the whole human race. Then indeed would have been realized

“The bloodiest picture in the book of time.”

The death of Mr. Lincoln is an impressive rebuke to the violence of party spirit, a solemn admonition to the fierceness of political warfare. The voice of party is hushed in the presence of such a national calamity. All political differences are forgotten, the rancor of mad excitement is laid aside, all malice is silenced, all hearts are softened in the general grief over the fallen object of common veneration. As the intelligence spread over the country, political designations were dropped, party allegiance was disowned, sectional feeling buried, all narrow jealousies were silent, and anxious patriots of all localities and names vied with one another, in doing honor to the memory of our noble chief. “Along the line of more than fifteen hundred miles his remains were borne,” says George Bancroft, “as it were, through continued lines of the people; and the number of the mourners, and the sincerity and unanimity of grief, were such as never before attended the obsequies of a human being; so that the terrible catastrophe of his end hardly struck more awe than the majestic sorrow of the people.” What a change has been effected in public sentiment, in the tone of the public journals. He who was so much misunderstood and maligned, to whom angry invective and the vilest epithets were applied, is now gratefully regarded, his private worth appreciated, his public services acknowledged. Parties, lately arrayed in bitter hostility against each other, now meet and mingle their tears around the grave of the dead.

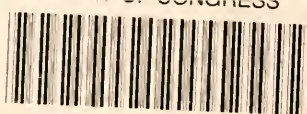
Death alone could have produced such a result. "Oh the grave; the grave! It buries every error, covers every defect, extinguishes every resentment. From this peaceful bosom spring none but fond regrets and tender recollections. Who can look down upon the grave of an enemy, and not feel a compunctious throb, that ever he should have warred with the poor handful of earth that is mouldering before him?" How it silences the voice of detraction and calumny. It changes faults to foibles and errors to infirmities, removes the thousand supposed stains from the character, brings out in bright relief the virtues of the departed, and teaches us to exhibit that love which "suffereth long and is kind, is not easily provoked, and thinketh no evil," which "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things," and which we never regret we exercised, when either friend or foe is committed to the silent tomb. The lesson should not be without its salutary influence upon the American people. It should awaken a spirit of forbearance, to sacrifice partisan animosity, political dissensions and sectional divisions, upon the altar of our common country, and, with hearts purified and in singleness of purpose, labor to advance our country's welfare.

It is our duty to see that the last vestige of the great curse which caused the rebellion and occasioned such fearful carnage, the destruction of so much life and treasure, and ended in the assassination of the President, be entirely and thoroughly exterminated. Perhaps just such a tragedy was required, such an imperishable lesson necessary, to touch our inmost feelings, to convince the nation fully of the cruel nature of treason, sustained by the debased spirit of slavery, which was not satisfied with the injuries it could inflict by the ordinary modes of civilized warfare, but showed its real character in the various atrocities committed during the war, in the heartless treatment of our prisoners, in the brutal massacre of our colored troops, in plotting arson, in attempting to diffuse malignant disease, in commissioning its secret emissaries to burn and pillage our large towns and cities, in striking at every thing that opposed its progress and perpetuity, and crowned its wicked career in the perpetration of a crime unknown in our history. We must now admit, even if we did not before, that there is a barbarism in slavery, recognized as the corner-stone of the broken Confederacy; and when it arrayed itself against constituted authority, and waged war to save its life, its barbarism

increased manifold. Its dark and fiendish spirit, when baffled in its criminal purposes, was not satisfied until the representative of the whole people was its victim, until it avenged itself by aiming a blow at the nation's heart, in an attack on our dearest rights and liberties. It is a duty, then, we owe to the memory of the illustrious dead, that this evil be utterly eradicated, that the letter and spirit of the Emancipation Proclamation, be fully acknowledged and faithfully executed; that domestic slavery be forever obliterated from American soil, that the great principles which underlie our Government be vigilantly guarded, that hereafter all, who live beneath the folds of the American flag, be protected in their inalienable rights and treated as freemen, and every human being occupy the position assigned him by his Creator.

Although President Lincoln's work on earth is done, and he has gone to his rest, the truths which he enunciated, and the principles which he illustrated in his life, and sealed with his blood, survive. *Potest videri etiam beatus; incolumi dignitate, florente fama, salvis adfinitatibus et amicitis, futura effugisse.* He lived to see the realization of his faith, the consummation of his hopes, the accomplishment of his wishes, right triumph over wrong, justice over injustice, patriotism over treason, our national banner rescued from dishonour, and our national name, from extinction. He died, mourned and regretted, amid the tears and unutterable grief of more than twenty millions of his fellow citizens, whose hearts were crushed as they never before had been by the death of a single individual. He rests from his labors, but his works do follow him. *Vixit enim vivetque semper: atque etiam latius in memoria hominum et sermone versabitur postquam ab oculis recessit.* He needs no monumental pile, or mausoleum splendor to perpetuate his memory. *Si queris monumentum, circumspice.* His marvellous career, his many virtues, his faithful services, his peerless influence, which no clouds can dim, no shadows obscure, will abide forever, enshrined in the affections of his countrymen, and secure the homage, the most profound regard of all who think; his name will be gratefully remembered in the archives of the country and on the pages of history, not only as the apostle, but the martyr of liberty; his great and patriotic deeds, his words of sage instruction, the common inheritance of mankind, in the light of advancing civilization and Christian charity, will shine with increasing lustre; his fame, unimpaired, will grow brighter in the progress of ages,

and will exercise a power for good down to the end of time; even in distant lands, across the ocean where other cares engross and other names are cherished, the name of Abraham Lincoln will excite strange emotions of joy, enthusiasm and veneration, the gratitude of all good men, and will be pronounced with affection by every one in whose breast there shall arise an aspiration for human rights and human liberty; nations yet unborn, will rise up and call him blessed. *Quidquid ex eo amavimus, quidquid mirati sumus. manet mansurumque est in animis hominum, in æternitate temporum, fama rerum.*



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